

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The method for fermentation and culture of the present invention is characterized in that a material derived from an edible plant and containing a glucides whose major component is a polysaccharide is fermented by a facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium which lives in a symbiotic relationship exclusively with a plant and simultaneously the facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium is cultured.

Please add the following paragraphs after the paragraph starting at page 18 , line 7:

It is desirable that the facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium is bacillus belonging to genus *Pantoea* and the edible plant is a food grain, a seaweed or a bean, or a mixture thereof.

It is desirable that the facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium is *Pantoea agglomerans* and the edible plant is a food grain, a seaweed or a bean, or a mixture thereof.

It is desirable that the material derived from the food grain is wheat flour, rice powder, wheat bran powder, rice bran or sake lees.

It is desirable that the material derived from the seaweed is brown seaweed powder, mekabu powder or kelp powder.